

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8, 11 and 12, and cancelled Claims 4-6 and 14-16. Claims 1-3, 7-13 and 17-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 12 are independent claims.

The Examiner objected to Claims 8 and 11 for minor informalities. Applicant has amended the instant claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chesley. Claims 2, 3, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chesley in view of Saemisch. Claims 10, 11, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chesley in view of Hepp. The Examiner indicated that Claims 6-9, and 16-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present case, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 6 and intervening Claims 4 and 5. Also, Applicant has amended independent Claim 11 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 16 and intervening Claims 14 and 15. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claims 1 and 11 and their respective corresponding dependent claims are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Application Serial No.: 10/820,045
Art Unit: 3764

Attorney Docket No. 24384.00
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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren S. Edmonds", written in a cursive style.

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WSE:dht